

1.2
7-2-46
QTXCF

Ranton

STATE OF WASHINGTON

Technical Division

POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

218 Bagley Hall - University of Washington

Seattle 5, Washington

Mon C. Wallgren
Governor

July 2, 1946

Jack Taylor
Director

MEMORANDUM NUMBER 184

OIL POLLUTION OF LAKE WASHINGTON BY REPUBLIC

CREOSOTE COMPANY

To: Nathan Fasten, Chief Biologist

From: Joe Lobberegt, Morland Jones, Albert Young, and Frank
Yates, Investigators

On the return trip of an investigation in the Kenndale
Region a visit was made at the Republic Creosote Company at the
extreme South end of Lake Washington on June 17, 1946.

Upon entering the yard a tank car was noticed on a trestle
directly above a creek bed, tributary to Lake Washington, and
from all appearances many spills have occurred here in the past,
especially during hose connections from tank car to storage
tanks. Undoubtedly such oil spills have found their way into
the Lake.

An inspection was then made at the end of the dock where
boats unload fuel oil for the plant. The dock runs approximately
150 feet from shore and on it three to six inch pipes were visible.
Upon reaching the end of these intake pipes, a large drip pan was

USEPA SF



1259659

Oil Pollution of Lake Washington
by Republic Creosote Company

-2-

observed completely filled with heavy crude oil. In fact, it was so full that it was overflowing. Everything surrounding the pan indicated that it had overflowed many times in the past. The entire end of this dock was saturated with oil and undoubtedly many of the oil pollution complaints received from this region, originated from the operations of this concern. Mr. L. P. Tollefson, Manager of the Republic Creosote Company, was then contacted and after pointing out to him the oil pollution, he was given a warning slip, requesting him to install immediately adequate catch basins under all pipe connections, with drainage connections into sumps on shore.

Mr. Tollefson agreed to do this in the very near future and promised to notify the Olympia Office when work is completed for another inspection.

Water Pollution Control Branch

Jerry Bollen, Mike Spurgin,
Charlie Howe & Files

April 21, 1971

Bob McCormick

Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp.
formerly located at
7441 Lake Wash. Blvd.,
Renton, Wash.

C

O

P

Y

We have a complicated problem that we need assistance and legal advise on. Reilly Tar & Chemical Corp. were located on the east shore of Lake Washington south of Highway 10 for some 55 years. Their last permit ran from March 14, 1965 to March 14, 1971. It is expired now and the company has abandoned the operation and have no one in this area representing them at this time, however, the company still does own the property. On February 25, 1971, we received a letter from Jones, Gray, Bailey, and Olsen, attorney firm located at 1000 Norton Bldg., Seattle, Wash. They stated that the plant operations were being discontinued and would not be necessary to renew the permit and they were leasing the property to J. H. Baxter & Co. A copy of the letter is attached, and a copy of the last permit.

Several weeks ago we were contacted by a Mr. Don Norman, phone GL4-5172 or 255-2421 and he is at this time working to put in a large development involving approximately a mile of water front along the east side of Lake Washington. This property would include the former Reilly Tar property, J. H. Baxter property, Barbee Mill property. In his investigations, going over the property of Reilly Tar, he found that approximately five acres of the ground which is very poor ground, that is it is peat type of soil, is thoroughly saturated with coal tar residues at varying depths, and surface water is running across these deposits and going out into Lake Washington. We have not sampled these and from reading the permits, talking with people in this office, apparently no one had ever observed the real condition of this property. Mr. Norman, due to the lease arrangement or option arrangement, had Reilly Tar leave their storage tanks in tact on the site. Apparently they have some three to six million gallons of storage capacity available and we have recently found out that these tanks were used last winter for storing bunker oil for Boeing Company. Since that time Boeing has emptied the tanks and they are now being used by Lidona Company to store oils in which they pick up at service stations in the area. Mr. Norman was concerned about the pollution of the area and he did have dikes placed around the tanks, prior to starting these operations. Previously these tanks had no protection at all around them and oil spills and so forth thoroughly saturated the ground in the entire area.

Mr. Norman is trying to put this package together for a big development and did recognize the potential pollution problems and has contacted just about every agency in the area concerning these problems and wants to know what our requirements will be if he develops the property.

- 2 -

Memo: J. Bollen, M. Spurgin,
C. Rowe & Files
From: Bob McCormick
Subj.: Reilly Tar & Chemical Co.
Date: April 21, 1971

C At this time I can't tell whether he wants us to go after Reilly Tar and force them to come back and clean up or whether he really is asking advise as to what to do and methods to proceed in developing the property without contaminating the lake. Mr. Norman has asked if he could come in and drive tight sheet piling along the shore to out about a ten foot depth along the front of most of this property some 1500 feet. The thinking is that tight sheet piling would then have to be securely anchored and driven to sufficient depths to hold the fill placed behind it. Then he would want to fill behind this with an impervious layer, probably both sides of the sheet piling, so that this unstable area behind it could be filled, recognizing that he would probably have to take the surface water and the contaminated water and put in a treatment facility and pump it to Metro, but his main idea was to get this property stabilized and sealed off to keep the surface water from draining off into the lake.

O I have seen horrible messes before but never seen anything like this. Stew and I wadded through this thing about knee deep. It is just unbelievable that such a mess could have been created in this area without being observed by someone from this office or having received complaints from the general public.

P Mr. Norman also found, in checking the history of the site, that there were some barge loads of coal tar material which were spilled in the lake at the pier and from our experience with some of these deposits in Lake Union, this material retains its original identity and will be there forever more unless it is removed because it does not seem to deteriorate. There has been no testing done yet to determine other spills which might have occurred from the shore side areas but Mr. Norman stated that he would like to proceed with this project and the first order of business would be to do some sampling to determine the feasibility of placing the sheet piling in, but he also recognizes a hornets nest which could be unleashed when he puts in an application like this since it would be in direct violation of the requirements of the Chelan Case, but he appears to be conscientious and trying to do what is probably right and necessary to do in order to solve this problem.

Y My whole point of this long drawn-out memo is to see if we can force Reilly Tar to come back in a clean up that mess which they left. Mr. Norman seemed to think that we would be involved in a big legal battle and the cost of clean up would probably exceed the value of the property and the company would probably let the property go for taxes rather than attempt to clean it up.

The present day market value this property is probably worth better than half a million dollars easily if it were in good condition. I am worried about the statute of limitations and just how much more information Charlie Roe might need before he would be willing or want us to make any moves to get the situation corrected. I feel that we need to be together on this and take the right approach if we are going to try to force Reilly Tar to clean the property up. Reilly Tar's address is: Mr. Peter Reilly, President, Reilly Tar & Chemical Co., 1615 Merchants Bank Bldg., Indiannopolis, Indiana, 46204.